

# Study Booklet

## A View from the Bridge



2	<b>Knowledge organiser</b>
3	BQ: What themes (big ideas) are introduced in the opening pages of <i>A View from the Bridge</i> ?
5	BQ: What tensions do there appear to be in the relationship between Eddie, Beatrice and Catherine?
6	BQ: How are the characters of Marco and Rodolpho presented and how do they seem to differ
8	BQ: What differences does Eddie see between Rodolpho and the other longshoreman and why does he feel uneasy?
10	<b>Recall test</b>
11	BQ: What do the other longshoreman say about Rodolpho and what is revealed by the way Eddie reacts?
12	BQ: Why do Eddie and Beatrice have such different opinions over Catherine's relationship with Rodolpho?
14	<b>Recall Test</b>
15	BQ: Alfieri says of Eddie, 'I knew where he was heading for' – what does he mean and why does he say it?
16	BQ: How does the balance of power shift at the end of the first act?
18	BQ: 'Eddie, I'm not going to be a baby anymore!' – How does the character of Catherine develop as the play progresses?
19	BQ: 'Give me the number of the Immigration Bureau' – Why does Eddie report Marco and Rodolpho?
20	BQ: 'Marco knows what's right from wrong' – Why does Marco choose to seek revenge on Eddie?
22	<b>Assessment</b>
24	Wider reading: <i>A View from the Bridge</i> – Miller reinvented with visceral power (The Guardian)
25	Useful websites

Key Events				
Act 1	Catherine reveals that she has been offered a job and Eddie expresses his disapproval; Eddie tells the story of Vinny Bolzano; Marco and Rodolpho arrive			
	Rodolpho talks about his life in Italy; Rodolpho sings for Catherine; Eddie becomes increasingly vociferous about his suspicious of Rodolpho			
	Mike and Louis joke to Eddie about Rodolpho's flamboyance; Eddie continues to restrict Catherine's freedom; Catherine finally admits that she has feelings for Rodolpho			
	Catherine complains to Beatrice that Eddie will not listen to her; Beatrice urges Catherine to change her behaviour around Eddie			
	Alfieri advises Eddie not to prevent the relationship between Catherine and Rodolpho; Eddie hits Rodolpho; Marco defeats Eddie in a test of strength			
Act 2	Rodolpho and Catherine find themselves alone in the apartment; Rodolpho angrily rejects the idea of moving to Italy with Catherine			
	Eddie drunkenly returns to the apartment; Eddie sees that Catherine and Rodolpho have been alone; Eddie kisses Rodolpho			
	Alfieri tells Eddie that he is powerless to stop the marriage between Rodolpho and Catherine; Beatrice reveals that Lipari has illegal immigrants living with him			
	Eddie calls the Immigration Bureau; Lipari's house is raided; Marco challenges Eddie; Marco kills Eddie			
Key Characters		Key Themes		Key Words
Eddie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An 'everyman' character</li> <li>Has conflicting feelings for Catherine</li> <li>Demands respect</li> </ul>	Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alfieri represents the law</li> <li>Contrast between 'old world' and 'new world'</li> <li>Revenge is linked to justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miller</li> <li>Tragedy</li> <li>Fate</li> <li>Chorus</li> <li>Italy</li> <li>Sicily</li> <li>America</li> <li>Brooklyn</li> <li>Red Hook</li> <li>Longshoreman</li> <li>Dock</li> <li>Friendship</li> <li>Status</li> <li>Loyalty</li> <li>Masculinity</li> <li>Respect</li> </ul>
Beatrice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devoted to Eddie</li> <li>Feels emotionally and physically distant from him</li> <li>Supports Catherine and Rodolpho's relationship</li> </ul>	Honour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honour is linked to silence</li> <li>Respect is important to Eddie and Marco</li> <li>Breaking a code of honour results in isolation</li> </ul>	
Catherine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beatrice niece</li> <li>Enters into a relationship with Rodolpho</li> <li>Defies Eddie</li> </ul>	Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples of romantic love and familial love</li> <li>Eddie's sexuality is ambiguous</li> <li>Eddie and Beatrice share a troubled relationship</li> </ul>	
Rodolpho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blonde-haired and handsome</li> <li>Humorous and flamboyant</li> <li>Ambitious</li> </ul>	Dreams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rodolpho believes in the 'American Dream'</li> <li>Rodolpho and Marco have different aspirations</li> <li>Eddie was content with his life as a longshoreman</li> </ul>	
Marco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physically strong</li> <li>Attempts to avoid conflict</li> <li>Kills Eddie</li> </ul>	Struggle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catherine struggles for her independence</li> <li>Eddie and Marco engage in a physical struggle</li> <li>Eddie struggles with his conflicting emotions</li> </ul>	

## Big Question

What **themes** (big ideas) are introduced in the opening pages of *A View from the Bridge*?

## Vocabulary

Immigration	Expectation	Family	Fate
Opportunity	Dreams	Community	Relationship
Hope	Money	Ambition	Love

## Retrieval

1. Alfieri sets the scene and refers to the importance of justice
2. Catherine greets Eddie
3. Eddie warns Catherine about her appearance and behaviour
4. Eddie informs Beatrice that her cousins have arrived in America
5. Catherine reveals that she has been offered a job

## Extract

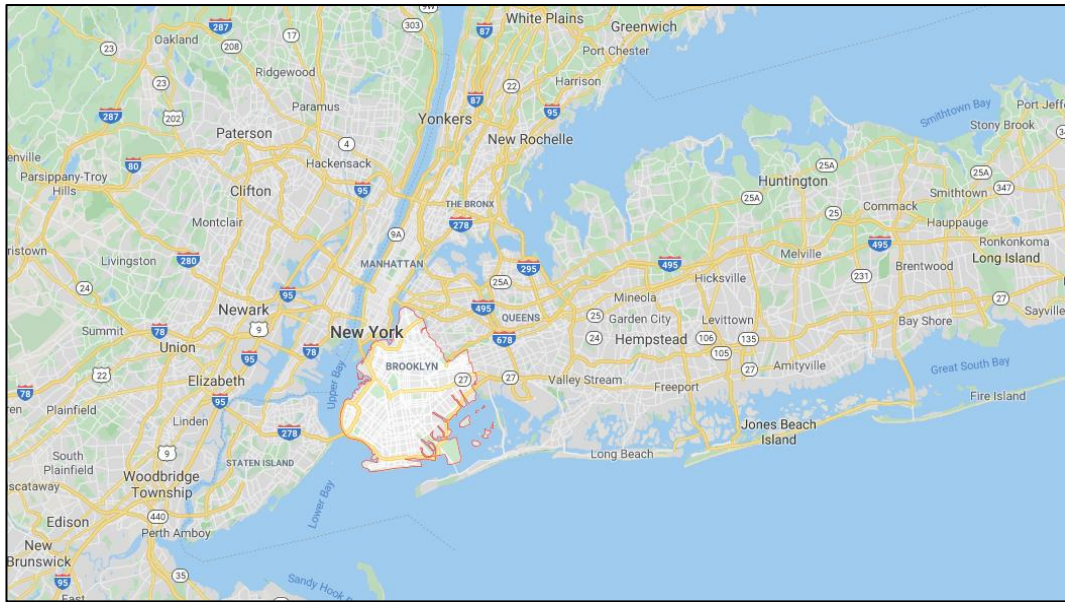
In those days, Al Capone, the greatest Carthaginian of all, was learning his trade on these pavements, and Frankie Yale himself was cut precisely in half by a machine gun on the corner of Union Street, two blocks away. Oh, there were many here who were justly shot by unjust men. Justice is very important here.

But this is Red Hook, not Sicily. This is the slum that faces the bay on the seaward side of Brooklyn Bridge. This is the gullet of New York swallowing the tonnage of the world. And now we are quite civilized, quite American. Now we settle for half, and I like it better. I no longer keep a pistol in my filing cabinet.

And my practice is entirely unromantic.

My wife has warned me, so have my friends; they tell me the people in this neighborhood lack elegance, glamour. After all, who have I dealt with in my life? Longshoremen and their wives, and fathers and grandfathers, compensation cases, evictions, family squabbles – the petty troubles of the poor – and yet . . . every few years there is still a case, and as the parties tell me what the trouble is, the flat air in my office suddenly washes in with the green scent of the sea, the dust in this air is blown away and the thought comes that in some Caesar's year, in Calabria perhaps or on the cliff at Syracuse, another lawyer, quite differently dressed, heard the same complaint and sat there as powerless as I, and watched it run its bloody course.





## Recap

What do we know so far about Eddie Carbone? List five things

## Big Question

What **tensions** do there appear to be in the relationship between Eddie, Beatrice and Catherine?

## Vocabulary

Tension	Maturity	Anger	Freedom
Jealousy	Patriarchy	Insecurity	Independence
Attention	Power	Growth	Conflict

## Retrieval

1. Eddie emphasises his unhappiness at Catherine's job offer
2. Eddie finally gives his approval to Catherine
3. Eddie warns Catherine not to trust anybody
4. Beatrice and Eddie tell Catherine about Vinny Bolzano
5. Catherine promises not to say a word

## Extract

**Eddie** Listen, B, she'll be with a lotta plumbers? And sailors up and down the street? So what did she go to school for?

**Catherine** But it's fifty a week, Eddie.

**Eddie** Look, did I ask you for money? I supported you this long I support you a little more. Please, do me a favor, will ya? I want you to be with different kind of people. I want you to be in a nice office. Maybe a lawyer's office someplace in New York in one of them nice buildings. I mean if you're gonna get outa here then get out; don't go practically in the same kind of neighborhood.

*Pause. Catherine lowers her eyes.*

**Beatrice** Go, Baby, bring in the supper. (**Catherine goes out.**) Think about it a little bit, Eddie. Please. She's crazy to start work. It's not a little shop, it's a big company. Some day she could be a secretary. They picked her out of the whole class. (*He is silent, staring down at the tablecloth, fingering the pattern.*) What are you worried about? She could take care of herself. She'll get out of the subway and be in the office in two minutes.

**Eddie** (*somehow sickened*) I know that neighborhood, B, I don't like it.

## Recap

In which area is the play set?

What is Eddie's occupation?

'No, I'm just nervous, that's all' – why is Beatrice nervous?

'The kid snitched?' – who is the kid and what does the story reveal?

## Big Question

How are the characters of Marco and Rodolpho **presented** and how do they seem to differ?

## Vocabulary

America	Brooklyn	Journey	Family
Italy	Longshoreman	Opportunity	Community
Sicily	Boat	Labour	Culture

## Retrieval

1. Alfieri speaks on stage prior to the arrival of Marco and Rodolpho
2. Tony leads the brothers to Eddie's apartment
3. Rodolpho reflects on the limited opportunities in Sicily
4. Marco talks about his wife and children
5. Rodolpho says he wants to buy a motorbike

## Extract

**Rodolpho** (*laughing*) It's terrible! We stand around all day in the piazza listening to the fountain like birds. Everybody waits only for the train.

**Beatrice** What's on the train?

**Rodolpho** Nothing. But if there are many passengers and you're lucky you make a few lire to push the taxi up the hill.

*Enter Catherine; she listens.*

**Beatrice** You gotta push a taxi?

**Rodolpho** (*laughing*) Oh, sure! It's a feature in our town. The horses in our town are skinnier than goats. So if there are too many passengers we help to push the carriages up to the hotel. (*He laughs.*) In our town the horses are only for show.

**Catherine** Why don't they have automobile taxis?

**Rodolpho** There is one. We push that too. (*They laugh.*) Everything in our town, you gotta push!

## Five Key Points to Remember

1. At the start of the play, Alfieri introduces Eddie as an **honest** and **content** worker who is clearly part of a close-knit community
2. Eddie is the **patriarch** (i.e. head) of his family and expects his authority to be respected by Beatrice and Catherine
3. Eddie is a **masculine** character who is proud of his **status** as a worker and provider
4. Eddie is particularly protective of Catherine but, at times, his behaviour seems **inappropriate** and **domineering**
5. Eddie is acutely **aware** of the cultural codes of Red Hook, particularly the importance of staying silent (think Vinny Bolzano)



## Recap

Which two adjectives below most precisely describe the character of Beatrice?

Assertive | Submissive | Anxious | Unhappy | Generous

## Big Question

What **differences** does Eddie perceive between Rodolpho and the other longshoreman and why does this make him feel **uneasy**?

## Vocabulary

Culture	Suspicion	Concerns	Viewpoint
Behaviour	Trust	Jealousy	Contrast
Appearance	Perception	Independence	Masculinity

## Retrieval

1. Rodolpho remembers singing at a hotel in Italy
2. Rodolpho sings for Catherine
3. Eddie remarks to Beatrice about Rodolpho's hair
4. Eddie contrasts Rodolpho with Marco
5. Eddie says Rodolpho is exploiting Beatrice

## Extract

**Eddie** And with that wacky hair; he's like a chorus girl or sump'm.

**Beatrice** So he's blond, so –

**Eddie** I just hope that's his regular hair, that's all I hope.

**Beatrice** You crazy or sump'm? *(She tries to turn him to her.)*

**Eddie** *(he keeps his head turned away)* What's so crazy? I don't like his whole way.

**Beatrice** Listen, you never seen a blond guy in your life? What about Whitey Balsa?

**Eddie** *(turning to her victoriously)* Sure, but Whitey don't sing; he don't do like that on the ships.

**Beatrice** Well, maybe that's the way they do in Italy.

**Eddie** Then why don't his brother sing? Marco goes around like a man; nobody kids Marco. *(He moves from her, halts. She realizes there is a campaign solidified in him.)* I tell you the truth I'm surprised I have to tell you all this. I mean I'm surprised, B.





## Recall Test

1. What is Eddie's surname?
2. What is the name of Eddie's wife?
3. What is the name of the lawyer who also serves as the narrator?
4. What is the name of the area of Brooklyn where the play is set?
5. In which decade is the play set?
6. Which region of Italy do Marco and Rodolpho come from?
7. What does the slang term 'submarine' mean?
8. How old is Catherine?
9. What does a longshoreman do?
10. Who wrote the play?
11. How many children does Marco have?
12. How much money does Marco want to immediately send his wife?
13. Is Rodolpho married?
14. What does Rodolpho want to buy?
15. How does Eddie accuse Catherine of walking?
16. What cargo does a 'Brazil ship' carry?
17. What is the name of the informer that Beatrice recalls?
18. What did Rodolpho help to push up the hill in Italy?
19. 'Where you goin' all dressed up?' – Who said it?
20. 'I didn't even but a new tablecloth' – Who said it?
21. 'They probably didn't see a tablecloth in their whole life' – Who said it?
22. 'Because as soon as you see a tired relative, I end up on the floor' – Who said it?
23. 'I'm the best student, he says, and if I want, I should take the job' – Who said it?
24. 'Look, did I ask you for money?' – Who said it?
25. 'As long as you owe them money, they'll get you plenty of work' – Who said it?
26. 'How much can a man make?' – Who said it?
27. 'He dreams, he dreams' – Who said it?

## Recap

What do you learn about Beatrice and Eddie from the extract below?

**Beatrice** I told them in the letters. They're sleepin' on the floor.

**Eddie** Beatrice, all I'm worried about is you got such a heart that I'll end up on the floor with you, and they'll be in our bed.

**Beatrice** All right, stop it.

**Eddie** Because as soon as you see a tired relative, I end up on the floor.

## Big Question

What do the other longshoremen say about Rodolpho and what is revealed by the way Eddie **reacts**?

## Vocabulary

Masculinity	Entertainment	Power	Contrast
Labour	Tension	Control	Discomfort
Attitude	Relationship	Jealousy	Embarrassment

## Retrieval

1. Louis invites Eddie to go bowling
2. Mike compliments Marco's work ethic and strength
3. Mike says that Rodolpho makes him laugh
4. Eddie says that he does not want Catherine to go to Times Square
5. Catherine admits that she has feelings for Rodolpho

## Extract

**Catherine** No, Eddie, he's got all kinds of respect for me. And you too! We walk across the street he takes my arm – he almost bows to me! You got him all wrong, Eddie; I mean it, you –

**Eddie** Katie, he's only bowin' to his passport.

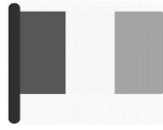
**Catherine** His passport!

**Eddie** That's right. He marries you he's got the right to be an American citizen. That's what's goin' on here. (*She is puzzled and surprised.*) You understand what I'm tellin' you? The guy is lookin' for his break, that's all he's lookin' for.

**Catherine** (*pained*) Oh, no, Eddie, I don't think so.

## Recap

Retrieve a quotation to link to each of the images below



## Big Question

Why do Eddie and Beatrice have such **different opinions** over Catherine's relationship with Rodolpho?

## Vocabulary

Anger	Anxiety	Loyalty	Empathy
Desperation	Jealousy	Respect	Commitment
Frustration	Love	Belief	Change

## Retrieval

1. Catherine tries to assure Eddie that Rodolpho respects her
2. Eddie claims Rodolpho is only interested in gaining citizenship
3. Catherine tells Eddie he is wrong
4. Catherine complains to Beatrice about Eddie not listening to her
5. Beatrice tells Catherine to change her behaviour

## Extract

**Beatrice** That he should let you go. But, you see, if only I tell him, he thinks I'm just bawlin' him out, or maybe I'm jealous or somethin', you know?

**Catherine** (*astonished*) He said you was jealous?

**Beatrice** No, I'm just sayin' maybe that's what he thinks. (*She reaches over to Catherine's hand; with a strained smile.*) You think I'm jealous of you, honey?

**Catherine** No! It's the first I thought of it.

**Beatrice** (*with a quiet sad laugh*) Well you should have thought of it before . . . but I'm not. We'll be all right. Just give him to understand; you don't have to fight, you're just – You're a woman, that's all, and you got a nice boy, and now the time came when you said good-bye. All right?

**Catherine** (*strangely moved at the prospect*) All right . . . If I can.

**Beatrice** Honey . . . you gotta.





## Recall Test

**1. In which neighbourhood of Brooklyn is the play set?**

Question for class discussion: Why is the area significant?

**2. Which region of Italy have Marco and Rodolpho travelled from?**

Question for class discussion: What has motivated Marco to leave his family and move abroad?

**3. What is the name of the 'kid' who 'snitched' on his uncle to the immigration authorities?**

Question for class discussion: What does his treatment by the community reveal about cultural codes?

**4. 'Maybe twenty dollars' – who said it?**

Question for class discussion: What is the money for and what does it reveal about the speaker?

**5. Alfieri says of Eddie Carbone that he 'never expected to have a destiny' – what did Eddie expect instead?**

Question for class discussion: What does Alfieri suggest about Eddie's values and beliefs?

**6. 'Like a chorus girl or sump'm' – who is being described?**

Question for class discussion: What does the simile imply?

**7. Mike says of Marco that 'he's a regular bull' – what does he mean by this?**

Question for class discussion: In contrast, Eddie describes Rodolpho as a 'canary' – what does he mean?

## Recap

List ten adjectives to describe Eddie and then five to describe Catherine

## Big Question

Alfieri says of Eddie, 'I knew where he was heading for' – what does he **mean** and why does he **say** it?

## Vocabulary

Culture	Justice	Advice	Jealousy
Rules	Law	Support	Anxiety
Behaviour	Lawyer	Frustration	Anger

## Retrieval

1. Eddie visits Alfieri
2. Eddie expresses his concerns about Rodolpho
3. Eddie says the other men laugh at Rodolpho
4. Alfieri says that Eddie cannot prevent the relationship
5. Eddie leaves Alfieri's office

## Extract

**Eddie** Mr Alfieri, they're laughin' at him on the piers. I'm ashamed. Paper Doll they call him. Blondie now. His brother thinks it's because he's got a sense of humor, see – which he's got – but that ain't what they're laughin'. Which they're not goin' to come out with it because they know he's my relative, which they have to see me if they make a crack, y'know? But I know what they're laughin' at, and when I think of that guy layin' his hands on her I could – I mean it's eatin' me out, Mr Alfieri, because I struggled for that girl. And now he comes in my house and –

**Alfieri** Eddie, look – I have my own children. I understand you. But the law is very specific. The law does not . . .

**Eddie** (*with a fuller flow of indignation*) You mean to tell me that there's no law that a guy which he ain't right can go to work and marry a girl and – ?

**Alfieri** You have no recourse in the law, Eddie.

**Eddie** Yeah, but if he ain't right, Mr Alfieri, you mean to tell me –

**Alfieri** There is nothing you can do, Eddie, believe me.

**Eddie** Nothin'.

## Recap

Correct the spellings below and prepare to explain why they are relevant to the play

Masculinitey | Heirarchy | Dominence | Jealousey | Angre

## Big Question

How does the balance of **power** shift at the end of the first act?

## Vocabulary

Relationship	Aggression	Strength	Contrast
Struggle	Battle	Authority	Change
Challenge	Symbolism	Control	Balance

## Retrieval

1. Eddie offers to teach Rodolpho how to box
2. Eddie instructs Rodolpho to raise his hands
3. Eddie strikes Rodolpho
4. Marco challenges Eddie to lift a chair
5. Marco raises the chair above his head

## Extract

**Rodolpho** takes her in his arms. They dance. **Eddie** in thought sits in his chair, and **Marco** takes a chair, places it in front of **Eddie**, and looks down at it. **Beatrice** and **Eddie** watch him.

**Marco** Can you lift this chair?

**Eddie** What do you mean?

**Marco** From here. (*He gets on one knee with one hand behind his back, and grasps the bottom of one of the chair legs but does not raise it.*)

**Eddie** Sure, why not? (*He comes to the chair, kneels, grasps the leg, raises the chair one inch, but it leans over to the floor.*) Gee, that's hard, I never knew that. (*He tries again, and again fails.*) It's on an angle, that's why, heh?

**Marco** Here. (*He kneels, grasps, and with strain slowly raises the chair higher and higher, getting to his feet now.* **Rodolpho** and **Catherine** have stopped dancing as **Marco** raises the chair over his head.)

**Marco** is face to face with **Eddie**, a strained tension gripping his eyes and jaw, his neck stiff, the chair raised like a weapon over **Eddie's** head – and he transforms what might appear like a glare of warning into a smile of triumph, and **Eddie's** grin vanishes as he absorbs his look.



## Recap

Arrange the events from Act One into chronological order

1. Marco defeats Eddie in a test of strength
2. Eddie visits Alfieri and says that Rodolfo 'ain't right'
3. Marco and Rodolpho arrive in Red Hook
4. Catherine reveals to Eddie that she has been offered a job
5. Rodolpho reminisces about the time he sung at a hotel

## Big Question

'Eddie, I'm not going to be a baby anymore!' – How does the character of Catherine develop as the play progresses?

## Vocabulary

Foreshadow	Romance	Frustration	Defeat
Hint	Tenderness	Anger	Independence
Contrast	Relationship	Violence	Isolation

## Retrieval

1. Alfieri reveals that a crate of whisky has gone missing
2. Rodolpho is not offered work
3. Rodolpho rejects the idea of Catherine moving to Italy
4. Rodolpho gets increasingly angry in front of Catherine
5. Eddie drunkenly enters and eventually kisses Rodolpho

## Extract

**Rodolpho** No; I will not marry you to live in Italy. I want you to be my wife, and I want to be a citizen. Tell him that, or I will. Yes. (*He moves about angrily.*) And tell him also, and tell yourself, please, that I am not a beggar, and you are not a horse, a gift, a favor for a poor immigrant.

**Catherine** Well, don't get mad!

**Rodolpho** I am furious! (*Goes to her.*) Do you think I am so desperate? My brother is desperate, not me. You think I would carry on my back the rest of my life a woman I didn't love just to be an American? It's so wonderful? You think we have no tall buildings in Italy? Electric lights? No wide streets? No flags? No automobiles? Only work we don't have. I want to be an American so I can work, that is the only wonder here – work! How can you insult me, Catherine?

**Catherine** I didn't mean that –



## Recap

Write down three adjectives to describe each of the characters below

Eddie | Beatrice | Catherine | Marco | Rodolpho

## Big Question

‘Give me the number of the Immigration Bureau’ – What factors influence Eddie’s decision to report Marco and Rodolpho?

## Vocabulary

Betrayal	Culture	Law	Anger
Guilt	Immigration	Information	Jealousy
Advice	Rules	Anonymity	Regret

## Retrieval

1. Alfieri says to Eddie that he cannot prevent the marriage
2. Beatrice tells Eddie that Catherine has moved out
3. Eddie and Beatrice argue about their relationship
4. Catherine announces that the wedding is on Saturday
5. Beatrice reveals that illegal immigrants are living with Lipari

## Extract

**Eddie** I’m tellin’ you I know – he ain’t right. Somebody that don’t want it can break it. Even a mouse, if you catch a teeny mouse and you hold it in your hand, that mouse can give you the right kind of fight. He didn’t give me the right kind of fight, I know it, Mr Alfieri, the guy ain’t right.

**Alfieri** What did you do that for, Eddie?

**Eddie** To show her what he is! So she would see, once and for all! Her mother’ll turn over in the grave! (*He gathers himself almost peremptorily.*) So what do I gotta do now? Tell me what to do.

**Alfieri** She actually said she’s marrying him?

**Eddie** She told me, yeah. So what do I do?

*Slight pause.*

**Alfieri** This is my last word, Eddie, take it or not, that’s your business. Morally and legally you have no rights, you cannot stop it; she is a free agent.

**Eddie** (*angering*) Didn’t you hear what I told you?

## Recap

Form three points based on the extract below

**Catherine** The kid snitched?

**Eddie** On his own uncle!

**Catherine** What, was he crazy?

**Eddie** He was crazy after, I tell you that, boy.

**Beatrice** Oh, it was terrible. He had five brothers and the old father. And they grabbed him in the kitchen and pulled him down the stairs – three flights his head was bouncin’ like a coconut. And they spit on him in the street, his own father and his brothers. The whole neighborhood was cryin’.

## Big Question

‘Marco knows what’s right from wrong’ – Why does Marco choose to seek revenge on Eddie?

## Vocabulary

Anger	Justice	Power	Punishment
Respect	Law	Love	Brutality
Betrayal	Conflict	Jealousy	Shock

## Retrieval

1. Marco spits at Eddie
2. Alfieri offers to release Marco on bail
3. Rodolpho warns Eddie that Marco will arrive
4. Eddie demands an apology from Marco
5. Marco kills Eddie

## Extract

**Marco** strikes **Eddie** beside the neck.

**Marco** Animal! You go on your knees to me!

**Eddie** goes down with the blow and **Marco** starts to raise a foot to stomp him when **Eddie** springs a knife into his hand and **Marco** steps back. **Louis** rushes in toward **Eddie**.

**Louis** Eddie, for Christ’s sake!

**Eddie** raises the knife and **Louis** halts and steps back.

**Eddie** You lied about me, Marco. Now say it. Come on now, say it!



## Recap

### Answer the questions below

1. 'Submarine' – what is this slang for?
2. 'Paper Doll' – which character is given this nickname?
3. 'A regular bull' – which character is being described?
4. 'I am furious!' – why is Rodolpho 'furious'?

## Assessment

How the character of **Rodolpho** is presented in *A View from the Bridge*? Base your response on the two extracts provided

**Beatrice** I don't understand you. What's so terrible about him?

**Eddie** You mean it's all right with you? That's gonna be her husband?

**Beatrice** Why? He's a nice fella, hard workin', he's a good-lookin' fella.

**Eddie** He sings on the ships, didja know that?

**Beatrice** What do you mean, he sings?

**Eddie** Just what I said, he sings. Right on the deck, all of a sudden, a whole song comes out of his mouth – with motions. You know what they're callin' him now? Paper Doll they're callin' him, Canary. He's like a weird. He comes out on the pier, one-two-three, it's a regular free show.

**Beatrice** Well, he's a kid; he don't know how to behave himself yet.

**Eddie** And with that wacky hair; he's like a chorus girl or sump'm.

**Beatrice** So he's blond, so –

**Eddie** I just hope that's his regular hair; that's all I hope.

**Beatrice** You crazy or sump'm? (*She tries to turn him to her.*)

**Eddie** (*he keeps his head turned away*) What's so crazy? I don't like his whole way.

**Catherine** (*steeling herself*) Tell me something. I mean just tell me, Rodolpho – would you still want to do it if it turned out we had to go live in Italy? I mean just if it turned out that way.

**Rodolpho** This is your question or his question?

**Catherine** I would like to know, Rodolpho. I mean it.

**Rodolpho** To go there with nothing.

**Catherine** Yeah.

**Rodolpho** No. (*She looks at him wide-eyed.*) No.

**Catherine** You wouldn't?

**Rodolpho** No; I will not marry you to live in Italy. I want you to be my wife, and I want to be a citizen. Tell him that, or I will. Yes. (*He moves about angrily.*) And tell him also, and tell yourself, please, that I am not a beggar, and you are not a horse, a gift, a favor for a poor immigrant.

**Catherine** Well, don't get mad!

**Rodolpho** I am furious! (*Goes to her.*) Do you think I am so desperate? My brother is desperate, not me. You think I would carry on my back the rest of my life a woman I didn't love just to be an American? It's so wonderful? You think we have no tall buildings in Italy? Electric lights? No wide streets? No flags? No automobiles? Only work we don't have. I want to be an American so I can work, that is the only wonder here – work! How can you insult me, Catherine?

## Vocabulary

Additionally	Finally	However	Similarly
Furthermore	Moreover	Contrastingly	Likewise
Consequently	Therefore	Alternatively	Crucially

## Writing Frame

Point: Miller presents / explores / conveys

Evidence: An example of this is / This is conveyed by

Explain: Miller deliberately shows / This indicates

Zoom: A key word is / The adjective implies

Link: Miller wanted to reflect / Additionally

## Five Key Points to Remember

1. Rodolpho is a **lively** and **flamboyant** character; he does not behave according to the social norms upheld by Eddie and Marco
2. Eddie implies that Rodolpho is **gay**, but this is arguably only a reflection of his own **jealousy** and **insecurity**
3. Rodolpho freely admits that he **does not** want to return to Italy, but this does not mean that he isn't in **love** with Catherine
4. Catherine is obviously in love with Rodolpho and she develops the **courage** to openly defy Eddie as the play progresses
5. Rodolpho very much represents the **future**: he is keen to work, wants to have fun and seizes the **opportunities** given to him



## *A View from the Bridge – Miller reinvented with visceral power*

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2015/nov/12/view-from-the-bridge-review-arthur-miller-reinvented>

Ostensibly, Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* is set in **Red Hook**, Brooklyn, a thriving port in Miller's day and now home to troubled housing projects and hipster bakeries. But in Ivo van Hove's thrillingly claustrophobic version, last seen on the West End, the action all takes place in one small square – a bit like a boxing ring, a bit like a prison cell – with the audience surrounding it on three sides.

*A View from the Bridge*, based loosely on a real-life incident, describes the upheaval in the home of Eddie Carbone (Mark Strong), a career longshoreman who lives with his wife, Beatrice (Nicola Walker), and her niece, Catherine (Phoebe Fox), who has just been offered a secretarial job when the play begins. **Conflict** arrives in the bodies of Marco (Michael Zegen) and Rodolpho (Russell Tovey), Beatrice's cousins, newly smuggled ashore from Italy. Marco is a macho sort, so he and Eddie get along fine. But Rodolpho, who sings and dances and sews, **discomfits Eddie**, especially when Rodolpho fixes his attentions on Catherine.

Van Hove is a genius at revealing and actualising the **emotional currents** that run underneath dialogue, of giving subtext a visceral and violent expression. So, it wasn't a given that he would succeed with Miller. More than one character explicitly states Eddie's predicament, a deeply felt but dangerously unacknowledged desire for his niece, so this text isn't exactly sub. But Miller can be mealy mouthed about desire itself, which he always seems to treat as something at least a little distasteful. By focusing so keenly on it, Van Hove inflames what had come to seem a settled text. This is an exhilarating production, assured and perilous, **abstract and concretely physical**.



Van Hove shows us the too-long embraces between Eddie and Catherine, her childish way of wrapping her legs around his waist that doesn't seem so childish any more. And if Van Hove adjoins a kiss that is not in Miller's play, it makes the scripted one that follows it all the more disturbing. Maybe that first kiss seems out of character for Eddie, but Miller's play acknowledges that 'a passion' 'had moved into his body, like a stranger', and in Mark Strong's **extraordinary** and visceral performance we see a man who has become a stranger to himself, a paragon of manhood unmanned and set adrift both by his own desires and by challenges to his **masculine assumptions**.

Strong is well supported by the other cast members, though accents can waver between south Brooklyn and north London. But pronunciation aside, they're all very much in the same play and very much **entrapped** in what Van Hove, following on from Miller, envisions as a supremely **tragic cycle**. The shower that opens the play, Eddie's ablutions after a sweaty day on the docks, is echoed in the bloody rain that concludes it, suggesting that the **violence** that propels the play is inexorable. We are all of us caught, rapt and culpable, in its spray.

## Useful Websites

- BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwhgycw>
- Research Guide <https://www.aresearchguide.com/a-view-from-the-bridge.html>
- Universal Teacher <http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/drama/viewfromthebridge.htm>
- Shmoop <https://www.shmoop.com/study-guides/literature/view-from-the-bridge>
- Sparknotes <https://www.sparknotes.com/drama/viewbridge/>